CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1 – 37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for configuring a database system to store a plurality of lists containing information regarding a plurality of items comprising:

establishing a list database on a server computer system, said list database including a plurality of lists, each associated with a corresponding list identifier, said plurality of lists including a first list associated with a first list identifier;

establishing a management tool on a client computer system, remote from said server computer system, said management tool including said list identifier;

establishing a communications link between said client computer system and said server computer system;

retrieving said first list from said list database to said management tool responsive to said first list identifier;

revising said retrieved first list on said client computer system using said management tool; and

updating said first list in said list database to reflect the revision to said retrieved first list.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said step of establishing a list database comprises:

establishing within said list database a first list object corresponding to said first list;

generating within said first list object a first list field;

associating a first list identifier with said first list object;

wherein said step of retrieving comprises retrieving said first list object from said list database;

wherein said step of revising comprises storing in said first list field of said retrieved first list object information regarding one of the plurality of items, said one of the plurality of items being the first item; and

wherein said step of updating comprises updating said first list object in said list database to reflect the revision to said retrieved first list object.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said step of

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 6 of 24
199700v4
PAGE 7/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

generating comprises associating a first list field identifier with said first list field, said first list field identifier corresponding to the information stored in said first list field.

41.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 40 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises storing in said first list field information corresponding to said first list field identifier.

42.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ associating comprises:

generating said first list identifier; and

associating said first list identifier with said first list object.

43.   (Original)   The method of claim 42 wherein said first list identifier is unique.

44.   (Original)   The method of claim 43 wherein said first list identifier includes a user name and password generated by a user of said list database.

45.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database including stored information relating to said first item; and

creating a pointer in said first list field referencing said information relating to said first item stored in said item database.

46.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database including stored information relating to said first item; and

creating a copy in said first list field of said information relating to said first item stored in said item database.

47.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises, responsive to a command issued to said management tool, identifying said first list field and revising said first list field to remove said stored information regarding said first item from said first list field.

48.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim ~~49~~ 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises the steps of:

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
    To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 7 of 24
1997Xhr4
PAGE 8/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database including first item information relating to a first item; and

responsive to a command issued by said management tool, revising said first list field to include a pointer referencing said first item.

49.   (Original)   The method of claim 48, comprising:

retrieving said first item information from said item database to said management tool; and

displaying a graphical representation of said first item information on a user interface of said management tool.

50.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

capturing information relating to a first provided item; and

revising said first list field to include a pointer referencing said first provided item.

51.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 50 wherein said ~~step of~~ capturing comprises ~~the steps of~~:

establishing a communications link between said client computer system and an item provider computer system, said item provider computer system remote from said client computer system and including information relating to a first provided item; and

responsive to a command issued to said management tool, locating said first provided item on said item provider computer system, and

capturing said information relating to said first provided item.

52.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 51 wherein said ~~step of~~ capturing comprises the steps of:

providing a template database on a template database server computer system remote from said client computer system, said template database including one or more templates, each corresponding to an information structure;

determining a structure for said information relating to said first provided item;

retrieving a template corresponding to said structure from said template database to said management tool;

applying said template to said provided item information to parse said information

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
     To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 8 of 24
199700v4
PAGE 9/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

relating to said first provided item; and

capturing said parsed information with said management tool.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 50 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database storing information relating to a plurality of items;

comparing said captured information relating to said first provided item with said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items;

responsive to a pre-established rule, revising said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items to include said information relating to said first provided item; and

[wherein said step of revising comprises] revising said first list field to include a pointer referencing said information relating to first provided item in said item database.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53 wherein said ~~step of~~ responsive to a pre-established rule, revising said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items comprises:

determining if said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items includes said captured information relating to said first provided item; and

revising said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items to include said captured information relating to said first provided item if said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items does not include said captured information relating to said first provided item.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

providing information relating to a first provided item to said management tool;

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database storing information relating to a plurality of items;

revising said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items to include said information relating to said first provided item; and

[wherein said step of revising comprises]revising said first list field to include a

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 9 of 24
199700v4
PAGE 10/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

pointer referencing said information relating to said first provided item in said item database.

56.   (Original)   The method of claim 39 wherein said first list field stores information regarding a first item, and comprising, responsive to a command issued by said management tool:

establishing a communications link between said client computer system and an item provider computer system, said item provider computer system remote from said client computer system and offering said first item for sale; and

facilitating the purchase of said first item from said item provider computer system.

57.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 56 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises the step of:

capturing purchase information relating to the purchase of said first item; and

updating said first list in said list database to reflect the inclusion of said purchase information in said retrieved first list.

58.   (Original)   The method of claim 57 wherein said purchase information comprises information relating to one or more of: price, quantity, shipping method, and delivery date.

59.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 39 wherein said ~~step of~~ establishing a communications link between said client computer system and said server computer system comprises establishing a communications link using one or more of the Internet, a wide area network, and a local area network.

60.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 59 wherein said ~~step of~~ establishing a communications link between said client computer system and said list database server computer system comprises the steps of:

providing a browser tool on said client computer system;

instructing said browser tool to locate said item provider computer system; and

instructing said browser tool to search said item provider computer system for said provided item information.

61.   (Original)   The method of claim 39, comprising:

establishing an item database on said server computer system;

establishing within said item database a first item object corresponding to the first item;

generating within said first item object at least one item field;

associating an item field identifier with each said item field; and

storing at least a portion of the information regarding the first item within each said item field.

62. (Currently amended) The method of claim 61 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises storing in said first list field of said retrieved first list object a pointer referencing said first item object.

63. (Original) The method of claim 39, comprising:

establishing an item database on said server computer system, said item database storing information relating to the plurality of items;

capturing information regarding a first provided item and information regarding a provider of said first provided item;

comparing said captured information with said information stored in said item database relating to the plurality of items to determine if said captured information is included in said information stored in said item database; and

revising said item database to any captured information not included in said information stored in said item database.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

establishing within said item database a first item object corresponding said first provided item;

generating within said first item object at least one item field;

associating an item field identifier with each said item field; and

storing a portion of the information regarding the first provided item within each said item field.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises:

establishing within said item database a first provider object corresponding to said

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
    To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 11 of 24
199700v4

PAGE 12/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

item provider;

generating within said first provider object at least one item field;

associating a provider field identifier with each said provider field; and

storing a portion of the information regarding the item provider within each said provider field.

66. (Original) The method of claim 65 wherein said item database includes a first item object, comprising associating said provider object with said first item object.

67. (Currently amended) The method of claim 64 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises storing in said first list field of said retrieved first list object a pointer referencing said first item object.

68. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein said first list includes a first item and wherein said step of revising comprises the step of, responsive to a command issued to said management tool, identifying said first item and revising said retrieved first list to remove said first item from said retrieved list.

69. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises ~~the steps of~~:

establishing an item database on an item database server computer system remote from said client computer system, said item database including item information relating to a first item;

responsive to a command issued by said management tool, retrieving said item information from said item database to said management tool; and

responsive to a command issued by said management tool, capturing said item information relating to said first item, and

revising said retrieved first list to include said item information relating to said first item.

70. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises ~~the steps of~~:

establishing a communications link between said client computer system and an item provider computer system, said item provider computer system remote from said client computer system and including information relating to a first provided item;

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 12 of 24
199700v4
PAGE 13/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

responsive to a command issued to said client computer system, locating said first provided item on said item provider computer system;

capturing said information relating to said first provided item with said management tool; and

responsive to a command issued by said management tool, revising said retrieved first list to include said information relating to said first provided item.

71.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 70 wherein said step-of capturing comprises the-steps-of:

providing a template database on a template database server computer system remote from said client computer system, said template database including one or more templates, each corresponding to an information structure;

determining a structure for said information relating to said first provided item;

retrieving a template corresponding to said structure from said template database to said management tool;

applying said template to said provided item information to parse said information relating to said first provided item; and

capturing said parsed information with said management tool.

72.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 70 wherein said step-of revising said retrieved first list comprises the-steps-of:

establishing an item database on an item database server computer system remote from said client computer system, said item database including stored information relating to a first item;

comparing said information relating to said first provided item with said stored information relating to said first item;

responsive to a pre-established rule, revising said stored information relating to said first item to include said information relating to said first provided item; and

responsive to a command issued to said management tool, revising said retrieved first list to include said information relating to said first provided item.

73.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 72 wherein said step-of responsive to a pre-established rule, revising said information relating to said first item

comprises ~~the steps of~~:

determining if said information relating to said first provided item and said information relating to said first item relate to the same item; and

revising said information relating to said first item to include said information relating to said first provided item if said information relating to said first item relates to the same item as said information relating to said first provided item.

74.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 38 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises ~~the steps of~~:

providing information relating to a first provided item to said management tool; and

responsive to a command issued to said management tool, revising said retrieved first list to include said information relating to said first provided item.

75.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 38 wherein said retrieved first list includes a first item, <u>said method further</u> comprising ~~the steps of~~, responsive to a command issued by said management tool:

establishing a communications link between said client computer system and an item provider computer system, said item provider computer system remote from said client computer system and offering said first item for sale; and

purchasing said first item from said item provider computer system.

76.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 75 wherein said ~~step of~~ revising comprises the step of:

capturing purchase information relating to said purchase of said first item; and

updating said first list in said list database to reflect the inclusion of said purchase information in said retrieved first list.

77.   (Original)   The method of claim 76 wherein said purchase information comprises information relating to one or more of: price, quantity, shipping method, and delivery date.

78.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 38 wherein said ~~step of~~ establishing a communications link between said client computer system and said list database server computer system comprises establishing a communications link using one or more of the Internet, a wide area network, and a local area network.

79.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 78 wherein said step-of establishing a communications link between said client computer system and said list database server computer system comprises the steps of:

providing a browser tool on said client computer system;

instructing said browser tool to locate said item provider computer system; and

instructing said browser tool to search said item provider computer system for said provided item information.

80.   (Currently amended)   A method for creating an electronic list of items, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a list database on a server computer system;

establishing a management tool on a client computer system remote from said server computer system, said management tool including a list identifier;

establishing a communications link between said server computer system and said client computer system;

responsive to a signal issued by said client computer, establishing a communications link to an item provider computer system remote from both said server computer system and said client computer system;

locating an item on the item provider computer system; and

responsive to a command issued to said management tool, adding a pointer referencing said item to a list associated with said list identifier in said list database on said server computer system.

81.   (Currently amended)   A method for maintaining an electronic list, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a management tool on a client computer system, said management tool including a list identifier;

establishing on a server computer system remote from said client computer system: an item database including item information relating to a first item, and a list database including a list associated with said list identifier, said list including said first item;

establishing a communications link to an item provider computer system remote from both said server computer system and said client computer system;

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
    To Office Action Mailed 08/17/04
Page 15 of 24
199700v4

PAGE 16/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

responsive to a command from said server computer system, updating said item information in said item database; and

responsive to a command issued to said client computer system and said list identifier, retrieving to said client computer system said updated information corresponding to an item on said list associated with said list identifier.

82.   (Currently amended)   A method for maintaining an electronic shopping list on a computer system linked to a network, said shopping list including at least one record, each said record containing information relating to a product, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a shopping list management toolbar on an Internet browser on a client computer system, said client computer system in communication with the Internet;

establishing on a server computer system in communication with the Internet, a shopping list database, said shopping list database including a first shopping list having a shopping list identifier;

providing said shopping list identifier to said shopping list management toolbar;

communicating said shopping list identifier to said shopping list database;

retrieving a copy of said first shopping list from said shopping list database to said shopping list management toolbar responsive to said shopping list identifier;

establishing communications via the Internet with a product provider computer system, said product database including product information relating to a first product;

revising said retrieved copy of said first shopping list on said shopping list management toolbar to include a pointer referencing said product information relating to said first product; and

updating said first shopping list in said shopping list database to reflect the revisions to said retrieved shopping list.

83.   (New) A method for configuring and using a database system to store information regarding a plurality of items, said method comprising:

establishing a database on a computer system;

defining within said database a plurality of field identifiers, each said field identifier defining the type of information to be stored within a database field associated with said

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
    To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 16 of 24
122700v4

PAGE 17/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

field identifier;

creating within said database a plurality of data objects, each said data object corresponding to one of a plurality of items;

generating within each said data object at least one field and associating one of said field identifiers with each said field, wherein one or more of said data objects include certain field identifiers that are not included in other data objects in said database; and

storing within each said field data comprising a portion of said information corresponding to the data object in which said field was generated and of the type defined by said field.

84.   (New) A method as in claim 83 wherein said items are selected from the group consisting of products and services, said field identifiers define specific attributes of said products and services, and said fields store values of the attribute defined by the corresponding field identifier.

85.   (New) A method as in claim 84 wherein said creating further comprises creating a plurality of vendor objects in said database, each said vendor object corresponding to a vendor of one or more of said items, each vendor object including a plurality of vendor fields, each vendor field having a corresponding field identifier associated with it, wherein one of more of said vendor objects include certain field identifiers that are not included in other vendor objects in said database.

86.   (New) A method as in claim 85, further characterized in that said storing comprises inserting into at least one of said vendor fields either: (a) a product or service object; or (b) a pointer pointing to one of said product or service objects.

87.   (New) A method as in claim 84 wherein:

said creating further comprises creating a plurality of data objects selected from the group consisting of manufacturer objects, vendor objects, and service provider objects, each manufacturer object corresponding to a product manufacturer, each vendor object corresponding to a product vendor, and each service provider object corresponding to a service provider.

said generating further comprises generating within each said data object at least one field and associating one of said field identifiers with each said field; and

said storing further comprises inserting into said data fields information relating to an attribute of the product manufacturer, product vendor, or service provider corresponding to the data object in which said field is contained, said attribute being of the type corresponding to the field identifier associated with said field.

88.   (New) A method as in claim 87 wherein said database is established on a server computer, and said method further comprises:

producing at a client computer a query signal related to one of said products, services, product manufacturers, product vendors, or service providers;

communicating said query signal to said server computer;

generating at said server computer a return list signal representing a list including one or more of said products, services, product manufacturers, product vendors, or service providers;

communicating said return signal to said client computer; and

displaying said list on the display of said client computer.

89.   (New) A method as in claim 87 wherein said list includes one or more attributes for each product, service, product manufacturer, product vendor, or service provider in said list, and wherein the value of said attribute corresponds to the data in the field corresponding to said attribute.

90.   (New) A method as in claim 88, and further including storing said list on said client computer and updating said stored list with updated information from said server computer.

91.   (New) A method as in claim 88 wherein said data object is a product vendor object, one field in said product vendor object corresponds to a predetermined product, said list is a list of product vendors which carry said predetermined product, and said client computer is a computer associated with the web site of the manufacture of said predetermined product.

92.   (New) A method as in claim 91 wherein said list includes values corresponding to an attribute selected from the group consisting of the vendor's price for the product, whether the product is in stock at the vendor, and a rating of the vendor.

93.   (New) A method as in claim 91 wherein said displaying is further

characterized by displaying a hyperlink to the web site of the corresponding displayed vendor.

94.   (New) A method as in claim 83 wherein said storing comprises inserting into one of said fields a pointer pointing to one of said data objects different than the data object including said field.

95.   (New) A database system configured to store information regarding a plurality of items, said database system comprising:

a computer having memory;

a database stored in said memory, said database comprising a plurality of data objects, each said data object corresponding to one of said items, each said data object including within it an array of rows and columns for storing information regarding said item, each row of said array including a field identifier and a field, said field identifier defining the type of information to be stored in said field, said field containing information about said item of the type defined by said field identifier.

96.   (New) A database system as in claim 95 wherein said items are selected from the group consisting of products, services, product vendors, product manufacturers and service providers, and said field identifiers define specific attributes of said products, services, services, product vendors, product manufacturers or service providers.

97.   (New) A method as in claim 95 wherein said information comprises a pointer pointing to one of said data objects different than the data object including said field.

98.   (New) A method of making and using a database for storing information regarding a plurality of items, said method comprising:

defining a plurality of field identifiers, each field identifier defining the type of information to be stored in a field corresponding to said field identifier;

configuring a database object corresponding to each of said items, each said database object including an array of rows and columns, said array including a field identifier column and a field column different from said field identifier column;

for each said database object, entering one of said field identifiers in each row in said field identifier column and entering, in the corresponding field column in the same row, information about said corresponding item of the type determined by said field identifier in

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
   To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 19 of 24
199700v4

PAGE 20/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42

said row;

utilizing said database to retrieve said information; and

thereafter, defining a new field identifier, creating a new row in said database corresponding to said new field identifier, and entering new information in the field column of said new row, said new information of the type corresponding to said new field identifier.

99.   (New) A database system as in claim 98 wherein said items are selected from the group consisting of products, services, product vendors, product manufacturers and service providers, and said field identifiers define specific attributes of said products, services, product vendors, product manufacturers or service providers.

100.   (New) A method as in claim 98 wherein said information comprises a pointer pointing to one of said database objects different than the database object including said field.

Serial No. 09/998,364
Amendment and Remarks Responsive
    To Office Action Mailed 06/17/04
Page 20 of 24
199700v4

PAGE 21/25 * RCVD AT 9/16/2004 4:12:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3038316285 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-42